14 March 2006 Tuesday

READINGS

Psalm 61; Genesis 42:1-17; I Corinthians 5:1-8; Mark 3:19-35

DEVOTION

I joined the military in March, 1989. I attended Basic Training at Fort Dix, NJ, and AIT at Fort Monmouth, NJ. My first duty station was Fort Rucker AL. My first assignment was to the 46th Combat Engineers. During that assignment we had two deployments to remote areas and two Humanitarian deployments within the US. Being a young man from Savannah, Georgia, this was very new and exciting to me. It was great to see different places, meet new people, and try to help with all their problems while trying to be an asset, not a problem, to my chaplain. With all of this going through my mind, my chaplain (CH Williamson) really helped me through this time. Even though there were many differences between us, every Monday morning, without fail, we would have a devotion together. It was just he and I, and he prayed for me, my family, and the command, but never himself. That's what I remember when I think of Psalm 61.

As for the rest of today's readings, they seem to be referring to family, groups, organizations, and the way we treat one another. It is not only about treating others with proper respect, but also about holding each other accountable for our actions. We all should take a look at what we proclaim to be and to stand for, and consider not only what message we are sending out but most importantly what God knows is in our hearts.

MSG Elbert Jackson, 3rd COSCOM UMT